

JOSEPH SIEGFERTH '70

Growing up on the West Side of Akron, the son of an Akron Public Schools teacher and basketball coach and a stay-at-home mom, Joe Siegfert Jr. knew at a very young age what he wanted to be when he grew up.

After attending Simon Perkins Junior High, Siegfert could either go to Buchtel or Central, where his dad taught. Yet the mother of his CYO basketball buddy, Pepper Wahl, had other ideas for young Joe. Mrs. Wahl suggested the Siegferts look at Hoban. The family was impressed and left the decision up to their son. He claims it was the best lifetime decision his family ever made.

His mom went to work and his dad worked summers at General Tire to make a Hoban education possible for their only child.

At Hoban, his desire to follow in his dad's footsteps as an educator was reinforced by the commitment and support of the faculty and staff.

"It reinforced what I wanted to do professionally," Siegfert said. "And it also made me want to make a difference by helping others."

Siegert, Class of 1970, graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1974 and began a career with the Hudson School District that spanned three decades. He rose swiftly through the ranks to become the superintendent of one of the most respected and high-performing districts in the state. Serving as a fourth-grade teacher, middle school assistant principal and principal, elementary school principal, personnel director and assistant superintendent, Siegfert showed his passion for education to his colleagues, students and parents of the Hudson community.

In 2006, Siegfert was invited to join Hoban's board of directors, and his sense of loyalty to his alma mater called him to serve. For the past 15 years he has worked on a number of committees and has been instrumental in forming policies in line with the school's mission. He has brought a wealth of knowledge and relevant experience to the administration.

"I devoted my professional life to Hudson and I was glad to do that, but here was an opportunity to give back to where it all started for me," Joe said. "As a student, the brothers and staff were living the 10 core values. It was part of the culture of Hoban. As a board member, I see it more and more. We talk it, we walk it, we do it. It's in the classroom. It's in the religious instruction, athletics, board and staff."

Since retiring in 2004 from Hudson, Siegfert has been a private educational consultant, working with superintendents from 20 boards of education on developing and revising policies. His company consults with educators on leadership development and management strategies. He is active with Leadership Akron and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.